

## Readers --

This month we are offering you the opportunity to take pen in hand and create a literary masterpiece for ColorCue. Many of you are interested in the thoughts and opinions of fellow COMPUCOLOR II owners, and many of you have thoughts and opinions of your own that you could express on paper and share with us. If so, send in your article and we will consider making you famous here on the pages of ColorCue. We are looking for 'how-to' examples -- this could be anything you have discovered or thought of as you used the COMPUCOLOR II. We are looking for editorials; and we are looking for information pieces on the state of computing in general. Sample topics:

The Importance of Aesthetics in Programming

Programming: Structured vs Unstructured

Fool-proof FOR Loops

We hope that this sort of article will stimulate reader interest. (Not that we don't already have a lot of that. It's just that we can never get too much!) Remuneration will be as follows: First, you will get the satisfaction of seeing your article published in ColorCue. Second, you will establish yourself as a person of great cleverness among your fellow programmers, and third, you will receive the Sof-Disk Album of your choice. Articles should be no longer than 1.5 to 2 typewritten pages, but we may make exceptions for very good pieces.

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Those of you who are even more ambitious about writing articles should see page 5 for an opportunity to be published in a national magazine. (ColorCue is a national magazine, of course, but Creative Computing's circulation is somewhat larger.) We are starting a mail exchange for those of you who want to get in touch with one another to write about ideas and discoveries. We can put you in contact with one another by forwarding letters. We will also publish letters asking for help on any subject or interface, etc. Two such letters appear on page 5. Anyone with information that might help these two users can write to us and we will forward the letters. We hope that this mail exchange will be helpful to all users, but especially to those who live in areas where computer users and clubs are few and far between. Speaking of clubs, check the information in Comments and Corrections for events in your area.

## **ADVANCED APPLICATION**

### **Keyboard Lockout Feature**

It is often desirable to prevent input from the keyboard in a BASIC program as when processing and positioning of a cursor is needed before input is called for. The following two statements accomplish this:

OUT 8, 247 (to prevent input)  
OUT 8, 255 (to resume input)

A program illustrating the use of these statements follows:

```
10 REM THIS PROGRAM ILLUSTRATES KEYBOARD LOCKOUT FEATURE
20 PLOT 14
30 PLOT 12
40 OUT 8, 255: REM ENABLE KEYBOARD
50 PRINT "IF YOU TYPE CHARACTERS NOW, THEY WILL APPEAR."
60 PLOT 6,3,10
70 FOR I=1 TO 5000: NEXT I
80 PLOT 11, 28, 18, 11, 6, 1
90 OUT 8,247: REM DISABLE KEYBOARD
100 PRINT" IF YOU TYPE CHARACTERS NOW, THEY WILL NOT APPEAR."
110 FOR I=1 TO 5000: NEXT I
120 PLOT 28, 11, 6, 2
130 GOTO 30
```

NOTE: Before using the OUT 8,247; OUT 8,255 should be executed

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## **CALL FOR ARTICLES**

### **From Creative Computing**

Many of you are familiar with 'Creative Computing'. John Craig, the magazine's editor, has written to the vice president of Compucolor Corporation to suggest that some of our users might be interested in penning an article for Creative Computing. The letter follows. Please send all inquiries to the address below.

Dear Charles,

I would like very much to see a review of the Compucolor II, written by one of your customers, in the pages of Creative Computing. I'm looking for a good, objective article and would appreciate it if you could get word out to your customers.

It would be a good idea if potential authors got in touch with me first to prevent any duplicated efforts. Plus, we can toss around ideas and I can send them a copy of our Author's Guide.

Thanks much.

Regards,  
John Craig, Editor

Creative Computing  
RFD Box 100 D  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
(805) 735-1023

## RANDOM FILES

### Lee's Method

Lee Newcombe is a COMPUCOLOR II owner in Zephyrhills, Florida. He told us that he hasn't been programming very long, and has picked up what he has learned on his own. This certainly takes a lot of perseverance! Lee has already contributed a tic-tac-toe program to the Users Group, and is working on some other games that we hope to see soon. He also reports that he is in the process of developing his own accounting programs to help with his insurance business. He sent in the following program which creates new data files.

```
5 REM ***** PROGRAM NAMED NUFILE *****
10 REM ***** WRITTEN BY F LEE NEWCOMBE *****
15 PLOT 15: PLOT 12
20 PRINT "THIS PROGRAM WILL CREATE NEW DATA FILES. YOU WILL BE"
25 PRINT "ASKED TO INPUT THE FOLLOWING:"
30 PRINT, , , "1. NUMBER OF FILES TO BE SET UP"
35 PRINT, , , "2. FILE NAME (6 LETTERS LONG)"
40 PRINT, , , "3. NUMBER OF RECORDS IN THE FILE"
45 PRINT, , , "4. SIZE OF EACH RECORD"
50 PRINT, , , "5. MAXIMUM BLOCK SIZE (DEFAULT 256 BYTES)"
55 PRINT
60 INPUT "NUMBER OF FILES: ";N
65 FOR F=1 TO N
70 INPUT "FILE NAME: ";F$
75 IF LEN(F$) >6 THEN PLOT 28: GOTO 70
80 INPUT "NUMBER OF RECORDS: ";RN
85 INPUT "RECORD SIZE: ";RS
90 INPUT "MAXIMUM BLOCK SIZE (0-DEFAULT)(";BS
95 BS= 128 * INT((BS+127)/128)
100 IF BS <= 0 THEN BS=256
105 BF = INT(BS/RS)
110 PRINT "BLOCKING FACTOR IS"; BF
113 IF BF=0 THEN PRINT"INCREASE BLOCK SIZE TO AT LEAST"RS"BYTES": GOTO 85
115 AS= INT((BS-RS*BF)/BF)
120 IF AS=0 GOTO 145
125 PRINT "NOTE. THE RECORD SIZE COULD BE INCREASED BY "AS" BYTES";
130 PRINT "WITHOUT INCREASING THE TOTAL FILE SPACE USED.";
135 INPUT "DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE RECORD SIZE?"; A$
140 IF LEFT$(A$,1) ="Y" GOTO 85
145 PRINT "CHECK! IS PROPER SOF-DISK IN THE MACHINE?"
150 INPUT "TYPE (C) TO CONTINUE, (A) TO ABORT?"; B$
155 IF LEFT$(B$,1) = "A" GOTO 165
160 FILE "N", F$, RN, RS, BF
165 GOSUB 1000
175 FOR I=0 TO 10: PLOT 11: PLOT 10: NEXT I
180 GOSUB 1000
185 NEXT F999 END

1000 PLOT 8: FOR I=0 TO 8: PLOT 10
1010 NEXT I
1020 RETURN
```

## USER CORRESPONDENCE

### Mapping and Files

These two requests have come from COMPUCOLOR II users in New York and Alaska. Bob Bennett, of Anchorage, is looking for information about mapping.

Dear Editor,

Having got a chance to peek at an issue of ColorCue, I'd like to offer some constructive suggestions. First, I think it is an excellent and very useful publication, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! Too bad you must charge for your newsletter, it turns off some people in principle. . . .Also, graphics algorithms (point in polygon analysis, line in polygon analysis {shading} etc.) are always welcome, I want to use my COMPUCOLOR II for mapping.

Thanks,  
Bob Bennett

Dear Bob,

Thank you for the encouraging words about ColorCue. It is indeed unfortunate that we must charge for ColorCue, but printing and mailing costs are high, (the postage alone for each copy is around \$.28) and the COMPUCOLOR II does not have a high mark-up to cover these costs. We feel that it is better to sell the machine at a reasonable price and give people the option of subscribing to the newsletter, rather than exacting payment at the time of purchase. Also, everyone gets a chance to look over six free issues before they make up their minds about whether or not to subscribe! (Subscription information will appear in the next issue of ColorCue.)

I haven't seen any mapping applications for the COMPUCOLOR II so far, but maybe your letter will draw some response from those users who have done some work in this area.

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David Suits of Rush, New York, writes a very complimentary letter and asks for information about files.

Dear Editor,

My local dealer, Compuworld of Rochester, saved me from an unfortunate fate last spring by advising me that I really ought to see the COMPUCOLOR II before buying a Radio Shack TRS-80 (as I had been planning to do -- even made a down payment). The more I learned about the COMPUCOLOR II, the more excited I got. I suppose I should thank Radio Shack for being so far behind on their deliveries, because once Compuworld's demonstrator arrived, I was able to retrieve my down payment from Radio Shack and apply it to a COMPUCOLOR II.

The machine is magnificent! It continues to impress me with its power and versatility.

Here are some subjects I hope you will consider discussing in future issues of ColorCue.

. . .(4) Program appending. OK, I wrote one half of a very long program and saved it on disk. Next week I wrote the other half and saved it on disk. Now I have two programs when I'd really rather have just one. Surely, somewhere within the bowels of the FCS there must be a sneaky trick

which will allow me to load both programs into memory instead of having to chain them...?

. . .(5) I need more information on saving and loading string arrays and random files. Much of the discussion in the Reference Manual is either above my present talents (very likely) or lacking in detail and examples.

Please announce to everyone at CompuColor Corporation my ecstasy at being one of their customers.

Sincerely,  
David B. Suits

Dear David,

We're glad Radio Shack gave you your down-payment back! Eight colors are definitely better than two. You asked about program appending, and a method will appear in next month's ColorCue. As for more information about random files, you are not alone in this request. We recently received that very nice program that you sent in, and we don't think it's likely that the Manual is above your present talents. The next edition of the Manual will contain more detail in this area. In the meantime, we hope that a few readers will send in an article on this subject. Also, the program that Lee Newcombe wrote may help you out.

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## COMMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

We are doing our best to eliminate the 'corrections' aspect of this column, and January's issue came pretty close. However, there was a mistake in line 190 of the Hangman modification program. The line should be:

190 PUT 1,1;1,W

Note the semi-colon instead of the comma. In proofreading for errors, our literary critic deemed the choice of the semi-colon over the comma strictly optional, but the COMPUCOLOR II was a little more discriminating!

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As you know, ColorCue represents the official international users group for the COMPUCOLOR II. However, there are local users groups that are starting up in some areas of the country. These groups are a great chance for some of you to get together 'face to face' and meet and talk with other users. Those of you in the San Francisco Bay Area will have a users group in a few weeks. It will be run by an organization of the COMPUCOLOR II dealers in that area. Because it is such a large territory, meetings will probably be held all over the area on a rotating basis. They plan to feature various guest speakers that will help you with all sorts of applications for the COMPUCOLOR II. Those of you who are interested in becoming members of such a group should contact:

Mark Nehampkin  
Intersell Computers  
P.O Box 5322  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(415) 364-2110

## THE DRAWING BOARD

### New Sof-Disk Albums

Our software department has released a proposed schedule for some new Sof-Disks. It looks like an exciting group of programs and there's something for everyone no matter what your preference.

Starting the first of April, we will be releasing a series of 5 statistical Sof-Disks, at the rate of one per month. These Sof-Disks will cover basic statistics and plotting, regression analysis of variance, and time series.

In mid-March we will have a war games disk with GUNS, which is a real time game; Battleship; and some other goodies.

Our SHARKS Album will ready in March, and will have (along with Sharks, of course,) two ancient classical games, Kalah and Towers.

In April we will have the first in a series of Educational Sof-Disks which will contain a Geometry unit, some vocabulary-building exercises, and other educational programs.

3-D Tic-Tac-Toe (a 16K disk) will be ready in March, and has some exciting graphics games like Swarms, and the economically educational 'Galactic Merchant'.

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We have had a number of requests for the pin-cushion kit mentioned in last month's ColorCue. Unfortunately, the requests do not always get forwarded to the shipping department, because we neglected to give you a specific division to which you could address your letter! Even if you have already requested the kit, if you have not received it please fill out this form and send it to us at the address below. We may not have made it clear in the last issue, but this kit is sent to you without charge!

Please send me a COMPUCOLOR II Pin Cushion Correction Kit. I understand that although it is possible for owners to do the installation, the factory recommends that my dealer install it.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:                    Compucolor Corporation  
                                  P.O. Box 569  
                                  Norcross, GA 30071

ATTN: Steve Rubarts